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February 13, 2019
(Via E-Mail Only)

Senator Fred Mills
Senator Danny Martiny
Post Office Box 94183
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

RE: Louisiana State Board of Dentistry

Dear Senators:

I am aware of your interest in the Louisiana State Board of Dentistry ("LSBD") and actions taken by that Board against Dr. C. Ryan Haygood in response to testimony before a Senate Committee during the last legislative session. You may not be aware that the LSBD and/or persons closely associated with it have taken action against all three witnesses who testified at that session. All three of these witnesses are potential witnesses in Dr. Haygood's civil case against the LSBD and yesterday I filed the enclosed pleadings in that case.

As these pleadings reflect, there was a systematic, punitive reaction to the testimony of all three witnesses who appeared before the Senate Committee and there have been clearly extraordinary and plainly criminal efforts to exact a retraction from Ms. Diana Chenevert. The actions taken against Drs. Wilk and Haygood, while less outrageous, are clearly troubling. These actions are continuing as of the date of this communication. I hope you share my concerns about protecting witnesses who voluntarily appear before the Louisiana Legislature to share their views, expertise and experience in order to permit it to properly exercise its oversight functions. While these pleadings are lengthy by necessity, in light of the scope of extraordinary misconduct, I ask that you give these matters your careful consideration. Unless addressed, this type of misconduct could discourage witnesses from appearing and assisting in future matters of even greater public importance.

Finally, I have seen and wish to express my strong disagreement with the December 20, 2018 correspondence you received from Dr. Jerome Smith, Chairman of the LSBD. The information provided by Dr. Smith is, I am sure, his good faith effort to provide information on activities which pre-dated his service on the LSBD, as provided by staff. In our view, he has been provided false or misleading information on nearly every point provided in that letter. Additionally, as we note in the pleadings provided, although Dr. Smith claimed that the complaint against Dr. Haygood will be dismissed, the LSBD has provided no notice of this dismissal to Dr. Haygood as of this writing.

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As always, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

HARPER LAW FIRM
(A Professional Law Corporation)

BY: 

JERALD R. HARPER

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Enclosures

cc: Senator Ryan Gatti (via e-mail only)
Senator John Milkovich (via e-mail only)
Senator Barrow Peacock (via e-mail only)
Senator Gregory Tarver (via e-mail only)
Dr. C. Ryan Haygood (via e-mail only)